

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

January 23, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Gallagher
Kevin Tanski
Thomas Murphy
Antony DeMarco
Kathleen Pucci
Ron Van Kirk
Colleen Gallagher

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

Chief Zemek presented CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) certificates to Paul Hiltz, Todd Jackson, Eileen Shukaitis, Elizabeth VanValkenburg and Ted VanValkenburg.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Joe Magrey of 4714 Elizabeth Lane gave a presentation on the proposed gasification/incineration plant at Cleveland's Ridge Road Transfer Station. He showed location, pollution information, and stressed the negative impact of this type of facility on the residents of Brooklyn, including the impact of truck traffic on Ridge Road leading to this plant, the estimate at this time being 275 trucks per day. The trash will come from Cleveland and many other surrounding cities, run 24 hours, 365 days a year. A deadline has been extended by the Ohio EPA to February 23rd for more public meetings in regard to this. The plant is expected to open in 2014. He stressed that residents should become more aware of this proposal.

Jennifer Mladineo of 7419 Brookside Drive stated her concerns for the proposed gasification plant, and the hazards that could be faced, and the monitoring of the facility.

Pat Tamburro of 7606 Traymore Avenue spoke on the proposed incinerator facility and its negative impact on houses, lungs, cancer causing agents and pollution. He asked for Council to oppose this on behalf of the residents.

Rick Cyngier of 6211 Delora, and member of the Brooklyn School Board, congratulated new Councilmembers. He feels there should be more studying done on the incineration plant, including increased truck traffic as it relates to safety of children. He gave a brief State of the Schools Address saying they have evaluated current student progress in relation to academics, space concerns and transition, and created a plan to address these items. Brookridge Elementary School will house students from K-4th grade; the Middle School will house grades 5, 6 and 7th and the preschool; grades 8-12 will be the High School. He asked residents to visit the school system's website at www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us for a power point presentation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Chairman DeMarco): Recommended bid request for automated trash collection vehicle and related equipment, approve the bid for the Sr. Center ADA accessibilities improvement project.

Public Safety & Environmental (Chairman Murphy): No Committee meeting was held, but he reported that he attended a presentation by City of Cleveland at City Hall on the gasification plant, and also another public meeting on it. He is receiving more information that he will share that will help explain to residents how this plant will work. He said Brooklyn currently takes its solid waste to the Ridge Rd. Transfer Station, at a cost. Brooklyn has been in contact with four experts in the country that deal with gasification, and the intent is to

present all facts known to the public in a public forum. He hopes by the next Council meeting to have a date, time and location for this public meeting, or where the information can be obtained.

Juvenile Diversion, Domestic Violence (Councilwoman Gallagher): Domestic Violence Comm. to meet Feb. 1st at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. She passed out the 2011 annual report of the Juvenile Diversion Program. Some highlights: participants, 30 (13 nonresidents); referrals back to Juvenile Court, 3; community service hours, 404.

Public Works (Chairwoman Pucci): Reported she spent time at the Service Garage and on the road for a demonstration on a hybrid automated trash collection truck and the length and contingencies associated with a purchase. Therefore, after thorough research, the Service Director has recommended going out to bid on a Freightliner and (alternative) Mac drop frame truck. After bids are received a decision will be made based on availability and price. She would like all grant opportunities to still be pursued. She thanked Dir. Verba and the employees involved in the demonstration, and also Dir. Verba for his work in this process.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): Silver Sneakers program as of August 2011 has seen profits of \$3,181.50. He thanked the employees at the Rec Center for their assistance, and the residents and non-residents for their use of the facility for the program. In response to a request, Mgr. McGinty said that there is staff available to assist program participants if they need help with equipment. The next Rec Board meeting is rescheduled due to the Presidents Day holiday to Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 in the Mayor's Court.

Bd. of Zoning Appeals (Comm. Ockington): Report of January 19th mtg: appeal of denial by Planning Comm. for a Conditional Use Approval for a child day care center at 4674 Ridge, which was approved (3-2).

Planning Commission (Councilwoman K. Gallagher): Report of January 12th mtg: approved request of Allied Lighting for an 8-1/2 foot sign for Land Rover/Range Rover on Brookpark Road.

Economic Develop. Committee (Councilman DeMarco): Report of mtg: Economic Develop. Dir. tasked with coming up with Economic Development strategy for the city.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Kevin Tanski:

Attended Jan. 12th gasification plant mtg. The plant will break down waste, turn it into small pellets for energy, and Cleveland Public Power will use them. Issues: 1. Cleveland will be the first in the United States to use this process. Contaminants, deadly chemicals and fumes that will be emitted are unknown in detail. He is skeptical on how the system will work, and feels the city is in the dark, as no feedback is unavailable anywhere in the U.S. 2. Who will operate it and monitor and maintain pollutants in the atmosphere? Sub-contract out or will Cleveland manage it? Are the best interests of the surrounding residents being taken in?

Received a letter concerning solar and wind energy to be used in the City of Brooklyn from a resident, which he felt had good ideas. The place they had in mind is in the city park behind City Hall, to generate electricity for city buildings, park, and move. Possible grants could be obtained. He received some information, and suggested possibly the front walkway at the Rec Center for solar panel use. He asked a representative from the firm be invited to discuss with Council these ideas.

Councilman Tom Murphy:

No report.

Councilwoman Kathy Pucci:

Reported on various meetings she attended during the last few weeks: Economic Develop. Committee; time spent at garage and on road (Public Works report); Ohio Dept. of Development Local Govt. Innovation Fund information session; the gasification meeting with Cleveland officials; CIC; and a webinar for a vendor relating to the automation of minutes and streaming them on-line. At the CIC mtg they voted to extend the deadline for the purchaser of the former library to March 25th. Received a lot of information at the Local

Govt. information session to pass along to the Mayor and Econ. Develop. Dir. for grant funds and loans available, though some deadlines could make it too late for funding this year.

Requests- 1. She asked that directors, chiefs and department heads, in preparation for budget meetings, bring ideas they may have for areas where the city could collaborate and share with other entities. Eligible projects could be through collaboration. 2. Someone in the city to be designated as responsible for grants. One person for researching and writing and/or coordinating the grant writing with departments. Alternative sources of funding should be pursued.

Automated system for minutes and streaming meetings. She passed out preliminary pricing information from Granicus on three different options. Had participated in a second vendor's webinar and will summarize the information and e-mail it. She would like to schedule a conference call to get more into specifics of city's needs and what they can do for us. She will check on Council's availability in the next two weeks. The second vendor will set up a Brooklyn specific webinar. She suggested getting an estimate on upgrading microphones, as it is separate from the automated system, so all the information will be pulled together when needed.

Reported she also attended the gasification meeting with the Mayor, department heads and other Councilmembers, which was the same presentation given to Cleveland City Council the day prior. The extended deadline for this has been extended purely through public pressure, as it was a deadline of today. Between now and February 23rd the EPA will accept comments and questions from people. The next public meeting on the west side will be Feb. 8th at Cudell Recreation Center on West Blvd., and encourages attendance there to learn more. She does not feel this is going to be good for the people of Brooklyn. It's densely populated, there will be high truck traffic, and the pollutants and toxins emitted will come right toward our community. Requested Law Dir. Claussen draft a resolution opposing this, and she will pass along info to include.

Ron Van Kirk:

Thanked Finance Dir. Esarey for meeting with him last week. Feels the city is currently in good financial position, but reminded that there are several expensive projects facing the city. He will make sure each dollar is spent with residents in mind. In two years the city will lose about 1/7 of income tax revenue when American Greetings closes, so the city must plan and prepare accordingly. Will work with Council to pay down city's debt; make necessary improvements to facilities and services; and put Brooklyn on firm financial ground for the next generation. Welcomes all ideas from all residents.

Said he has not received any requested information on the Animal Shelter. Thinks the Shelter might be closing its doors, and would hate to see that occur. Spoke of investigation, operations, conflicts, suggestions as a result.

Colleen Gallagher:

Requested that the most recent Council minutes be completed before older ones. Spoke on the opposition to the incinerator proposal and its health risks.

Katie Gallagher:

Thanked Finance Dir. Esarey, Dir. Migliorino and Jill Ludwig for meeting with her last week, and Dir. Verba for his work on the one-armed bandit and answering questions from her. Also spoke with resident on solar/windmill, and asked the Mayor to elaborate on his discussion with the resident.

Tony DeMarco:

Considers gasification plant a serious concern for residents, and the city will continue to gather information. Announced February 6th at 6 p.m. as budget session in the conference room.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Balbier:

He also spoke with the resident about windmills, and his initial thoughts were for the landfill area, though the cost is extremely high, unless a grant is available. Said he is gathering information almost daily on the

gasification plant, and has found no one in favor other than government people. Brooklyn is closer to the plant than $\frac{3}{4}$ of Cleveland residents, and all of the east side. Plus in 2013 Ridge Road is supposed to be a new road, and there are concerns of the truck traffic.

Reported that he attended the grand opening of Huntington Bank on Memphis and Ridge; and also a Cleveland Clinic event. Said at the next Council meeting he will have a support Resolution for Issue 15 (Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services levy). End of month reports available at reception desk.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Rec. Mgr. McGinty:

Thanked Lake Erie Monsters' mascot for joining the Jan. 13th open skate. The Baron Cup tournament will be Feb 6-12.

COUNCIL CONFIRMATIONS:

Recreation Board: **MOTION** by Murphy, second by Tanski to confirm the appointment of Robert Kelber. **VOTES:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Van Kirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher. No: Pucci.

Tax Incentive Review Council: **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to confirm the appointment of Gregory Frey. **VOTES:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk, C. Gallagher, K.Gallagher. No: None.

BID REQUESTS/APPROVALS:

Request of Service Director to advertise for bids for automated trash collection vehicles and containers. **MOTION** by Tanski, second by C.Gallagher to authorize advertising for bids. **VOTES:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher. No: None.

Request of Service Director to approve bid of \$37,400 (\$93,000 grant received) from Whitehouse Construction for ADA restroom facilities at the Senior Center. **MOTION** by Murphy, second by C.Gallagher to approve the bid. **VOTES:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher. No: None.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 2012-3. Authorizing Department Directors to advertise for bids for various products and purchases by the city for the year 2012. **MOTION** by C.Gallagher, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. Brief discussion: Councilwoman Pucci said this was tried in the past, and expressed that some of these items might not even be in the budget, and Council might not be aware when something is being bid on, or what an estimate or scope of the project could be, and she is not in favor, and asked her name be removed from the introduction. Mayor Balbier said the Council still has to vote on any approvals, and would still be notified. President DeMarco said he thinks it would make things more efficient, and would support it, and asks that the Mayor set up a communication process for each bid, if it passes. Councilwoman C.Gallagher, Councilwoman K.Gallagher also asked that their names be removed from the introduction. **VOTE:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco. No: Pucci, Van Kirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher. (Mrs. Pucci noted she is voting no because she feels this would abdicate part of our Council's oversight) Ordinance 2012-3 on FIRST READING.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by C.Gallagher, second by Van Kirk to adjourn. **VOTE:** Yes: Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher. No: None. Meeting adjourned.